As health care advances over the next decades, it is important for the specialty of Child Neurology to remain at the forefront of investigations related to the understanding of disease processes that affect the nervous system of infants, children, and adolescents and to the development of improved evidence-based treatment options. Key to this process is the dissemination of new knowledge not just to other child neurologists but also to clinicians in the various other specialties and subspecialties that provide healthcare for children. To that end, publication of scientifically valid articles in widely disseminated peer-review medical journals is imperative. In most academic institutions, one important requirement for career advancement is that individuals produce as many high-quality published articles as possible: a mandate that has jokingly been referred to as a “publish or perish” mentality. Unfortunately, the many scandals related to articles published in highly regarded medical and scientific journals indicates a need for constant vigilance and better training for those scientists and clinicians conducting investigations as well as for those providing the journal peer reviews. Mentoring of aspiring junior faculty members to foster critical thinking and ethical behavior has become a goal of many academic institutions. To mentor young neurologists, the American Academy of Neurology journal Neurology has developed a “Resident and Fellow Section” in which trainees at various levels can publish up to 1500-word articles in an online-only journal section developed by a group of neurology resident trainees.

The Journal of Child Neurology has decided to approach the mentoring of the next generation of academic child neurologists by establishing a Resident/Fellow Section of the journal Editorial Board and appointing an academic child neurologist, Audrey Foster-Barber, MD, PhD, to be the Associate Editor for this Section. She will be assisted with the Resident/Fellow Section by 2 other academic child neurologists, Yasmin Khakoo, MD, and Kara Stuart Lewis, MD, who are also Journal of Child Neurology Associate Editors, serving in their roles of Social Media Editors. Each year a group of child neurology trainees will be selected to serve 2-year renewable terms on this Resident/Fellow Section of the Editorial Board. The members of this Section will provide input related to the journal direction, just like other members of the Editorial Board, and assist with the burgeoning use of electronic media to disseminate article information. They will also be called upon to perform peer reviews for submitted manuscripts, but in doing so, will be mentored by Drs. Foster-Barber, Khakoo, and Lewis or by other designated members of the Editorial Board. This training will hone their skills both as investigators and as clinicians, making them better academic child neurologists to carry the specialty into the future. It is also possible that 1 or more of these Section members could become editors of journals or books important to the field of child neurology in their own right.

The profiles of the 10 individuals selected (out of 40 stellar candidates) to serve on the inaugural Resident/Fellow Section of the Journal of Child Neurology Editorial Board are listed below:

1. Dr. Hsiao-Tuan Chao is currently a PGY-1 trainee at the Baylor College of Medicine, in the Child Neurology Basic Neuroscience Residency Training Pathway. She obtained her MD and PhD degrees from the Baylor College of Medicine. Her PhD work was done under the joint mentorship of Huda Zoghbi MD and Christian Rosenmund PhD, elucidating the role of MeCP2 in γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA)-ergic neurons. In addition to an extensive research record, including articles and platform presentations, Dr. Chao has extensive experience with academic advocacy and community outreach for neuroscience, including involvement in the American Medical Association (AMA) Medical Student Section, Baylor’s Graduate Student Council, and the Medical Scientist Training Program Operating Committee, as well as community outreach and teaching in local high schools via a National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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2 University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA
3 Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA
4 Phoenix Children’s Hospital, Phoenix, AZ, USA
2. Dr. Allison Christy is currently a PGY-1 trainee at Oregon Health Sciences University Doerbecher Children’s Hospital. She obtained her MD and PhD at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Her PhD work was with Dr. Melissa Brown, studying the role of mast cells in regulating the blood-brain barrier integrity in experimental autoimmune encephalitis. Her academic interests include neuroimmunology and the developing brain. She also has a strong interest in how the scientific community disseminates ideas among itself and with the lay public. She has taught creative nonfiction writing to medical students as part of a formal Medical Humanities course at Oregon Health Sciences University, has extensive experience with nonfiction writing, and wrote the Oregon Health Sciences University’s most-read blog post of 2012 on work-life balance as a resident.

3. Dr. Louis Dang is currently a PGY-4 trainee at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Child Neurology Program. He received his BS (with distinction) in Chemistry from Stanford University and his MD and PhD in Neuroscience from Johns Hopkins University. He has published articles and presented posters on Notch3 signaling systems, and has won a number of awards and scholarships for his work. He has considerable expertise in electronic communications. He is a particular interest in the peer-review processes in the neurosciences.

4. Dr. Radhika Dhamija is currently a PGY-6 trainee, doing a fellowship in the Department of Medical Genetics at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She received her medical degree from the All India Institute of Medical Arts (AIIMS) in New Delhi, India, and worked as a Research Associate in the Department of Neuroimmunology at Mayo Clinic before starting her Pediatrics residency at Michigan State University. She has published articles and presented extensively at meetings, establishing a clear path to becoming a clinical researcher in neurogenetics. Her dual qualifications in child neurology and genetics are a particular asset.

5. Dr. Dawn Gano is currently a PGY-6 trainee, doing a fellowship in Neonatal Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco. She obtained her MD from McMaster University and then trained in Child Neurology at the University of British Columbia, Canada. She has a strong interest in clinical research, and publications on migraine and multiple sclerosis. Her specific clinical interests center around critical care of neonates, prematurity and related brain injury, hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, and the role of neuroimaging in diagnosis and prognostication of developmental outcome. She has experience in the editorial process and academic publishing, having been the Editor-in-Chief of the McMaster University Medical Journal, a medical student-run peer-reviewed journal.

6. Dr. Evan Cole Lewis is currently a PGY-5 trainee at Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa, Canada. He received his MS degree in Biochemistry from McGill University in Montreal and his MD from the University of Ottawa. He will soon begin subspecialty training in Neurophysiology at Miami Children’s Hospital. He has distinguished himself in both teaching and research arenas but has a particular interest and expertise in developing technology for use in medical education. He has received funding from various Canadian agencies to study online teaching methods and recently codirected a workshop at the Canadian Conference on Medical Education where he taught participants how to use web-based learning to complement their current teaching practices.

7. Dr. Danielle Bennett Pier is a PGY-3 trainee at Children’s Hospital Boston, having completed her pediatrics residency at Tufts-New England Medical Center Floating Hospital for Children. She received her BA (summa cum laude) in Chemistry from New York University and her MD from Harvard Medical School. She completed the year-long Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship during medical school (5th year pathway), working with Dr. Deborah Levine on the morphology and outcome of prenatally diagnosed ventriculomegaly. She plans further clinical and research training in fetal and neonatal neurology after her child neurology residency. She has developed incredible skill at electronic communication and has used social media as outreach platforms for health fundraisers for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and breast cancer.

8. Dr. David Stark is a PGY-4 trainee at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He received his BS (magna cum laude, with distinction) from Yale University in the Neurobiology Track of the Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology Department. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Medical School. He has a broad-based research background with prior experience in basic science electrophysiological studies, behavioral and drug studies in animals and humans, functional neuroimaging research, and healthcare policy, quality, and safety. He has a nascent interest in bioinformatics, and is a member of Cornell’s Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy. A note from his Program Director Barry Kosofsky states: “I give him my absolute, unqualified, most enthusiastic and strongest support. In fact, I suggest that you let him take my place on the board, as he is far smarter, far more thoughtful, far more efficient, and far more productive.”

9. Dr. Marissa Vawter is currently a PGY-3 trainee at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center.
She received her BA (magna cum laude) in International Studies from the Honors College at the University of South Carolina, and her MD degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. She is currently being mentored by Dr. Todd Arthur in a research project on Institutional Practices of Diagnosis and Management of Catamenial Epilepsy. She has a strong interest in biostatistics and quality improvement. She also has a strong commitment to international health.

10. Dr. Joanna Wrede is currently a PGY-5 trainee at University of Washington, Seattle. She received her BS (summa cum laude) in Biology (minor in Zoology) from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She received her MD degree with a Scholarly Concentration in Biomedical Ethics and Medical Humanities from Stanford University. While at Stanford University, she was an associate editor and contributor for the Stanford Medical Student Clinical Journal. In addition to having received awards for photography and art gallery exhibitions, she has experience with digital imaging and publishing software, and an interest in social media. She will soon enter a Sleep Medicine Fellowship at the University of Washington.

We look forward to working with and mentoring this impressive group of trainees, to the fellowship that will form among this international cohort, and to the exchange of ideas about moving our communication into the arena of social media. We hope the Resident/Fellow Section of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Child Neurology will serve an invaluable role in advancing ethical and high-quality scientific and healthcare research in our field. We suspect these energetic young members will certainly help to keep the current Editorial Board members on their toes.

Author Contributions

RAB as journal Editor-in-Chief wrote the first draft of the article. As journal Associate Editors, AFB, YK, and KSL worked as the selection committee for the members of the Resident/Fellow Section, prepared the member profiles, and edited and corrected the manuscript.

References